



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference A02-106	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/JP2002/012551	International filing date (day/month/year) 29 November 2002 (29.11.2002)	Priority date (day/month/year)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G06F 17/60		
Applicant KAGIWADA, Yoshimitsu		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

a. (*sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau*) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:

sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b. (*sent to the International Bureau only*) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 04 June 2004 (04.06.2004)	Date of completion of this report 24 February 2005 (24.02.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of:

international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

The international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:

pages _____, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:

pages _____, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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International application No.
PCT/JP 02/12551

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	4 - 7	YES
	Claims	1 - 3, 8, 9	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1 - 9	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 - 9	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Document 1: JP 2002-183251 A (Yamato Protec Corp.), 28 June 2002, paragraphs [0016] - [0031], fig. 2

The invention described in claims 1 to 3 is disclosed in newly cited document 1 (paragraphs [0016] to [0031] and fig. 2), and thus, lacks novelty and does not involve an inventive step.

(In the response to the written opinion, the applicant argues that with the present invention, all users can share information pertaining to the distribution process, and also that client information includes a client code identifying the client and the date a transaction was established, and that manufacturer information includes lot numbers and the like, but these features are not set forth in the claims, and thus, said arguments are not accepted.

Further, the configuration wherein "d) client (manufacturer) information is received for each specified product and added to a memory means," which the applicant asserts is not disclosed in document 1, is disclosed in document 1, paragraphs [0016] to [0031] and fig. 2.)

The invention described in claims 4 to 7 is disclosed in newly cited document 1 (paragraphs [0012] to

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[0031) and fig. 2), and thus, does not involve an inventive step. Document 1 (paragraph [0013]) discloses a configuration having a search part for searching a database. Combining a search operation to derive the invention described in claims 4 to 7 is obvious and does not require the exercise of technical expertise or faculties beyond those expected of a person skilled in the art.

The invention described in claim 8 is disclosed in newly cited document 1 (paragraphs [0016] to [0031] and fig. 2), and thus, lacks novelty and does not involve an inventive step. Document 1 (paragraph [0024]) discloses the recording of information pertaining to lot number, date of manufacture, place of manufacture, and production line, which corresponds to the configuration of the invention described in claim 8, wherein process information about a manufacturing process is stored.